



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

100 YEARS
1918-2018

Celebrating Walter Buczynski's 85th Birthday

Sunday, April 28, 2019
2:30 pm
Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

PROGRAM

All works are by Walter Buczynski and are world premieres.

Sonata No. 35	Walter Buczynski
Sonatas Nos. 19 and 25	Matthew Li
Sonatas Nos. 32 and 33	Younggun Kim

Intermission

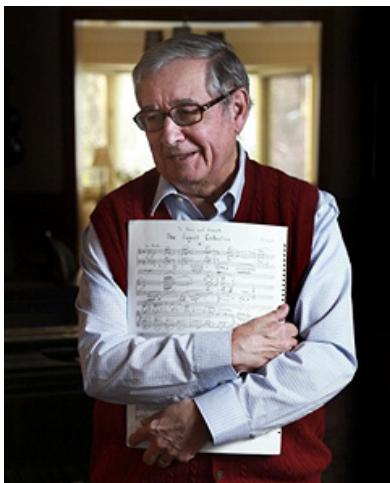
Sonata No. 16	Vadim Serebryany
Sonatas Nos. 20 and 28	Gregory Oh
Sonata No. 12	Ilya Poletaev

~

We hope you have enjoyed today's performance.

Please consider making a gift to Walter and Danuta Buczynski Scholarship in Music
by calling Tyler Greenleaf, Alumni Development Officer at 416-946-3580 or tyler.greenleaf@utoronto.ca

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.



BIOGRAPHIES

Walter Buczynski, composer and pianist, is one of Canada's most esteemed musicians. Born in Toronto in 1933 he studied theory at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto with Godfrey Ridout, piano with Earle Moss and with the renowned Rosina Lhevinne in New York. He made his orchestral debut in 1955 with the Toronto Symphony playing the Chopin F minor piano concerto. In 1960 he was the first Canadian ever to compete in the prestigious Chopin Competition in Warsaw. He continued his studies in composition with Darius Milhaud in Aspen, Colorado (winning the Fromm Award in 1955), and in Paris 1960 to 1962 with the legendary Nadia Boulanger.

From 1962 to 1969 Walter Buczynski taught piano and theory at the Royal Conservatory of Music. In 1969 he joined the University of Toronto Faculty of Music as professor of Theory and Composition. His compositions have been performed from coast to coast and in Europe and the United States. He has been recorded and broadcast frequently on radio and television by such distinguished artists as William Aide, Robert Aitken, Antonin Kubalek, Mary Morrison, Mark Dubois, Mark Pedrotti, Lorna MacDonald, Michael Colvin,

Doug MacNaughton, Joe Macerollo, Gregory Oh, Mark Fewer, Peter Longworth, Scott Irvine, Marie Bérard, James McKay, Phillip Candelaria, and Steven Dann. His music is played by ensembles such as the Canadian Brass, Purcell String Quartet, and Accordes String Quartet; and by conductors such as Franz Paul Decker, Boris and Alexander Brott, Gary Kulesha, Roy Goodman, Lukas Foss, John Avison, Raffi Armenian, Victor Feldbrill, Victor Di Bello, and Simon Streatfeild.

His compositional catalogue contains works for solo piano including 12 sonatas, 6 string quartets, the Cameo Series (solo wind and string trio), 23 Lyrics for solo voice or instruments and orchestral ensemble, songs for all voices, choral works and a multitude of pieces for accordion, guitar, bassoon, tuba, harp, and flugelhorn.

In 1977 he received the Queen Elizabeth medal for achievement and development of Canadian culture. In 1992 he received the Governor General's 125th Commemorative medal. In 2008 the Polish Government bestowed on him the Gloria Artis medal for his musical achievement and body of work. Walter Buczynski was President of the Canadian League of Composers from 1974 to 1975. After 30 years of teaching Professor Buczynski retired from the University, and is currently Professor Emeritus. He continues to compose and has resumed his concert career.

In 2014 he celebrated his 80th year by having concerts preformed of his music at the Faculty of Music, U of T, the Arts and Letters Club, Canadian Music Centre, Syrinx Concert Series, and at the Leith Historic Church in Leith. Performers included, pianists Gregory Oh, Peter Longworth, William Aide, Ilya Poletaev, Richard Herriott, and Walter Buczynski. Other musicians included Melanie Conly, soprano, Joe Macerollo, accordion, Mark Fewer, violin, and the Talisker Quartet. Walter Buczynski completed, recorded and concertized his sesquicentennial project of 35 piano sonatas in 2017 for Canada 150.

Younggun Kim is a pianist known for "his blazing technical capacity and a lush sound supported by a natural phrasing sense" (Timothy Gilligan, *New York Concert Review*), who has performed across North America and Europe. He is active as soloist, and chamber musician; recently he joined his alma mater, University of Toronto, as faculty member. He is also a sought-after adjudicator, having served as Permanent Adjudicator for the Canadian Music Competition, touring 12 cities across Canada. His solo performances in the 2018-2019 season include solo appearances with Calgary Civic Symphony and Toronto Concert Orchestra, as well as other concert engagements in Seoul, Vancouver, and Toronto. He is also featured in many other chamber music series, including the Korean-Canadian Chamber Concerts, Music Friends in Vancouver, and the Arts and Letters Club.

The winner of various prizes including San Antonio International Competition, Concours International de Piano Francis Poulenc and Doctor of Musical Arts Recital Competition at the University of Toronto, he also received various prizes and scholarships from the Canada Council for the Arts, University of Toronto, Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University, the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Canadian Music Competition, Shean Competition, the Alice and Armen Matheson Graduate Scholarship, Anne Burrows Foundation and Winspear Fund. Upon completion of the doctoral degree, Younggun was chosen as the recipient of the Tecumseh Sherman Rogers Graduating Award worth \$25,000, which is the largest award that the University of Toronto Faculty of Music offers. He has also been closely involved since 2011 with the Health Arts Society, providing classical music concerts to audiences who no longer can make it to concert halls. A Toronto-based Canadian citizen from South Korea, he finished his undergraduate degree at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music with Professor Marietta Orlov, Master's Degree at Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University under the guidance of Professor Boris Slutsky and the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree at the University of Toronto with Professor Marietta Orlov.

Known for being a diverse and adventurous musician, pianist **Matthew Li** aims to pursue unconventional recital formats that ventures beyond the standard repertoire. He made his orchestra debut in China with the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra in 2006. Further concert engagements have since then extended to different parts of Canada and the United States, as well as internationally. Notable accomplishments from Dr. Li in recent years include the Grand Prize Winner of the Vancouver Women's Musical Society Scholarship Competition in 2016, winner of Doctor of Music Competition in University of Toronto in 2015, and prize-winner of the 2014 Shean Competition. His further achievements include winner of the Johann Strauss Scholarship Competition in University of British Columbia and Second Place of the Indiana University (IU) Piano Concerto Competition. He was appointed Associate Instructor in piano at IU between 2008 and 2010 and served as collaborative keyboard faculty at the Casalmaggiore International Music Festival in Italy in 2018.

Dr. Li has a growing interest in exploring the realm of modernist and contemporary music. Between 2015 and 2016, he was chosen among a total number of five participants from around the world to study with the renowned soloists and champions of new music, Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Tamara Stefanovich at both the Stockhausen Music Festival in Munich, Germany, as well as the Aldeburgh Festival in Suffolk, UK. Over the years, he attended various music festivals including the Mozarteum Sommerakademie, Centre d'Arts Orford, and the Casalmaggiore International Music Festival, where he had the privilege to study with Lee Kum-Sing, Leon Fleisher, Jacques Rouvier, Arie Vardi, Robert Levin, and Menahem Pressler. Apart from solo engagements, Dr. Li is also an active chamber musician and collaborative pianist. In 2012, he co-founded a piano duo group Duo Interplay with his wife, Melody Chan-Li, and were awarded on their debut performance the Third Place in the 2012 International Northwest Piano Ensemble Competition. By invitation from the Korean-Canadian composer Gideon Gee-Bum Kim, Mr. Li joined the Toronto Messiaen Ensemble (TME) between 2013 and 2016. During his residency, the TME has been invited as ensemble-in-residence at Colorado College and debuted in New York City. They have collaborated with leading American composers including David Crumb, Michael Fiday, and Ofer Ben-Amots. Matthew Li holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from University of Toronto, Artist Diploma from the Glenn Gould School, Master of Music from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Bachelor's of Music from University of British Columbia, and Artist Diploma from the Glenn Gould School. He has studied under the tutelage of Sheila Hardy, Sara Davis Buechner, Arnaldo Cohen, Emile Naoumoff, and most recently, Marietta Orlov.

***Gregory Oh** tends to wander the genres, *appearing in places from the legendary Berlin techno club Berghain to the Wordless Music Series at the Lincoln Center. Recently he conducted *Bearing (*Signa*I) *and *While 100 Guitars Gently Weep* (Bradyworks) at the Luminato Festival and the Canadian premiere of Toshio Hosokawa's *The Raven* at the University of Toronto New Music Festival, appeared as the piano soloist in Scott Good's *Hands of Orlac* with the London Symphonia and Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. toured Rwanda and the UK with Neema Bickersteth and *Century Song* (Volcano)*, *and was featured as conductor and pianist at the Shanghai Modern Music Festival*. *This June he will conduct the world premiere of *The Cave*, a new work by Tomson Highway and John Millard, at the Luminato Festival. Other credits: Continuum, Soundstreams, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Canadian Opera Company, the Evergreen Gamelan Club, Native Earth Performing Arts, New Music Concerts, Canadian Stage, Souleppper, Tapestry New Opera, Canadian Rep Theatre, Theatre Direct, Arraymusic, Banff Opera, Florida State Opera and San Diego Opera. He teaches at the University of Toronto and NYO Canada.

A musician with a fiercely inquisitive mind, impeccable technique and an intensely poetic vision, **Ilya Poletaev** is an artist equally at home on the modern piano or on historical keyboards: harpsichord, fortepiano, and chamber organ. Hailed as "one of the most significant pianists of his generation" by the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, he launched his career after capturing First Prize at the prestigious International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition in Leipzig in 2010 -- the only Canadian ever to win that competition. He has since appeared at the Leipzig Gewandhaus, KlavierFestival Ruhr, Dresdner MusikFesttage, Potsdam Musikfestspiele, Leipzig BachFest, Montreal Bach Festival, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center and Chamber Music Society, St. Paul's Ordway Center, Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall, Caramoor Festival, Chamber Music Northwest, and many other prestigious venues. He also was the Grand Prize winner of the 2008 Concorso Sala Gallo in Italy, a laureate of the 2008 Canadian Stepping Stone, a top prize-winner at the 2007 SEHKS harpsichord competition, and a prize-winner at the 2011 George Enescu Competition in Bucharest. In 2009 he joined the roster of Astral Artists and is currently an Astral Artist laureate. On the modern piano, he has appeared with the Toronto Symphony, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Hartford Symphony, Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, Samara Philharmonic, Sinfonia Toronto, Orchestra Filarmonica di Cluj, collaborating with such conductors as David Robertson, Peter Oundjian, Bernhard Gueller, Rossen Milanov, Nurhan Arman, John Holloway and Leo Kraemer.

Known for the breadth and creativity of his programming choices, Poletaev has in past seasons offered solo performances ranging from the complete 2nd Book of J.S. Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* (which he performs in its entirety on both modern and historical keyboards); to traditional recitals and concerto performances of both well-known and neglected repertoire (C.P.E. Bach, Dussek, Medtner, Enescu, Nielsen, etc.), to inter-disciplinary events combining performances on different instruments, poetry readings, spoken commentary, and historical narrative. In addition to performing classical repertoire, Mr. Poletaev is also active as an improviser, both as a soloist and a creator of live scores for silent film.

A dedicated teacher, Mr. Poletaev is currently Associate Professor of Piano at the Schulich School of Music at McGill University in Montreal. He is also Assistant Director at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival's Choral Week. He previously served on the faculty of Yale University as a Lecturer in Early Music. He has given numerous master classes and talks on performance practice in many of the world's most prestigious music schools, including the San Francisco Conservatory, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, the Buchman-Mehta Music Academy in Tel-Aviv, Rubin Academy in Jerusalem, Royal Conservatory in Toronto, and the Conservatorio di Milano. His students have been the recipients of many distinguished prizes and scholarships. Mr. Poletaev began studying in Moscow at the age of six and continued his studies in Israel until he moved to Canada at the age of 14. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto, where he studied with pianist Marietta Orlov, harpsichordist Colin Tilney, and composition with Walter Buczynski, as well as Master's and Doctorate degrees from Yale, where he studied with Boris Berman. Mr. Poletaev currently resides in Montreal with his wife, the Romanian-born fortepianist Ruxandra Oancea, and their son Nikolay Simon.

Vadim Serebryany has been acclaimed by audiences and critics on five continents for his sensitive and intelligent music making. Mr. Serebryany has been highly sought after as a recitalist, concerto soloist and chamber musician. He has performed in Europe, South America, Australia and throughout North America, and in 2008 completed his eighth consecutive recital tour of Japan. In recent seasons Mr. Serebryany has embarked on many interesting and challenging projects, including performing the complete Beethoven sonatas for piano and violin, as well as presenting various solo and chamber works of the Second Viennese School composers in creative programs. In recent seasons, he has been a guest soloist with the National Arts Center Orchestra, The Kingston Symphony, the Osaka Century Orchestra, and Montgomery Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Serebryany has collaborated with such prominent artists as David Geringas, Mark Morris, Gary Reylea, Suren Bagratuni, Eugene Osadchy, Mayumi Seiler, Almita Vamos, the American String Quartet, the Enso Quartet, and the Glenn Gould String Quartet. In 2007 he and Mr. Kawasaki made their recital debut at Carnegie Hall. In 2005, Vadim founded Trio+, with violinist Yosuke Kawasaki and cellist Wolfram Koessel. The ensemble is known for its creative programs which explore a large portion of the chamber repertory, including duos, trios and larger ensembles in which they frequently collaborate with guest artists. The trio has performed to critical acclaim throughout North America and Japan.

An Honours graduate with Distinction from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, where he was a student of Marina Geringas, Vadim went on to complete his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at New York City's Juilliard School, under the tutelages of the legendary Russian pianist Oxana Yablonskaya and the esteemed American pianist Jacob Lateiner. The final leg of Mr. Serebryany's formal education took him to Yale University, where he completed his studies in the prestigious Doctor of Musical Arts program under the brilliant Russian pianist and teacher Boris Berman. From 2005 to 2008 Mr. Serebryany served as Artist in Residence at La Sierra University in Riverside, California, and has also served as a visiting professor at Lawrence University. From 2008 to 2016 Mr. Serebryany was a professor of music at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama, and in 2015 was named Huntingdon's first ever Belcher-Cheek Artist in Residence. Mr. Serebryany joined the piano faculty at the renowned School of Music at Ithaca College in 2016.

*Please note that photography and recording are strictly prohibited during the performance.
Kindly turn off all electronic devices as a courtesy to the performers and your fellow patrons.*

